



2012 Annual Report

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One accomplishment was the construction of a much needed addition to the maintenance facility building. It was a project that had been discussed for 10 years before becoming a reality. The facility will serve our Street and Park Maintenance Departments, creating efficiencies that will save time and money.

Another accomplishment was the acquisition of the area commonly known as Bailey Point, a 23-acre parcel along the Elk and Mississippi rivers. This land will allow our residents access to the rivers and to enjoy the nature of our fine city.

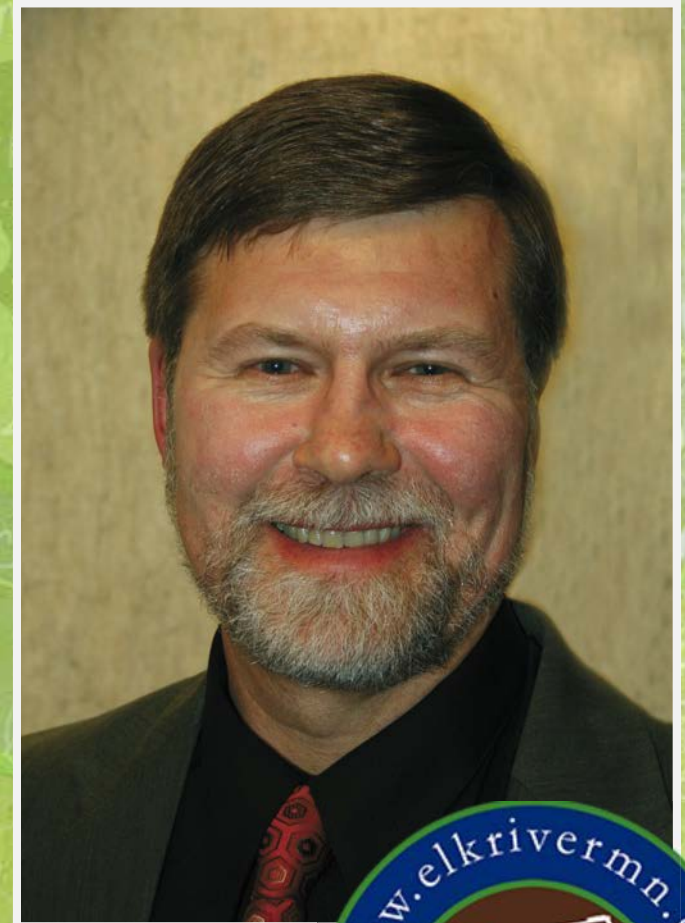
Through a great deal of time and effort, a Fire Department Task Force came up with a 5-year strategic plan that will guide the department into 2017.

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Overall it was another busy year, one in which City of Elk River staff did an excellent job working within their budgets and serving the public well. City services are a quality of life issue for residents. I am proud of the way our staff delivers services in a professional and friendly manner.

There are many opportunities and challenges ahead for 2013. I believe the city should always provide high quality services within a responsible budget. This is not an easy task but one our staff takes to heart every day.

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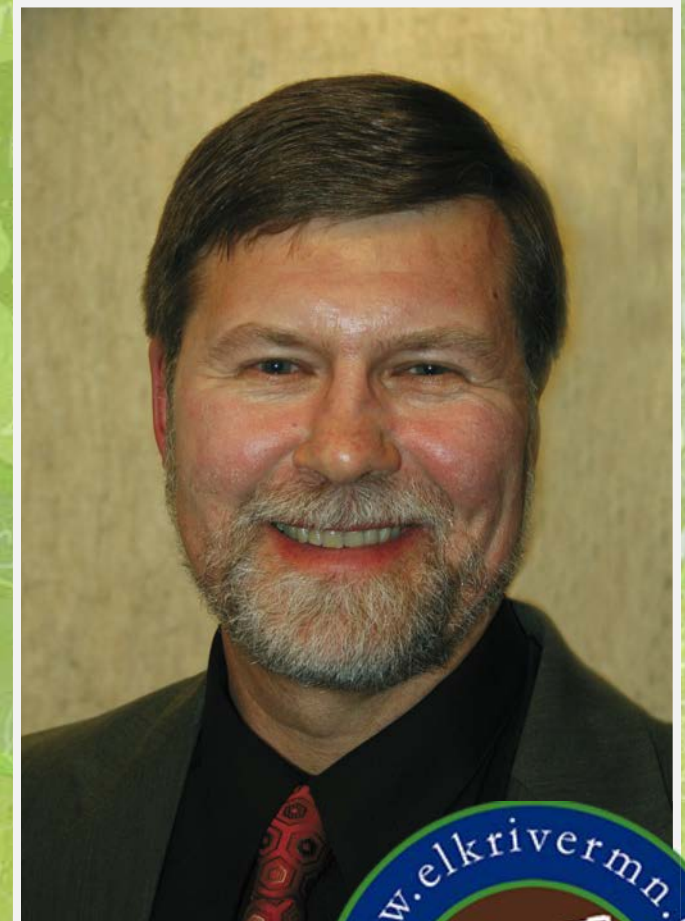
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Active groups enhanced community and created a sense of place with events such as ArtSoup, the Art Crawl, the Elk River Independence Day Celebration, Taste of Elk River, Shiver Elk River, and many other activities.

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The city employees could have been skeptical of change, cynical of new processes, and distrustful of new leadership. I am proud to be witness to a professional staff who embraced change, answered the call to be challenged, and sought innovation.

This Report is a snapshot of what was effected by dedicated and impassioned employees, the many volunteers, board and commissions members, and community groups, to achieve the vision and goals established by the City Council for the safety and quality of life of residents, and to improve the competitiveness of local businesses.

Cal P. Pater



ORGANIZATIONAL

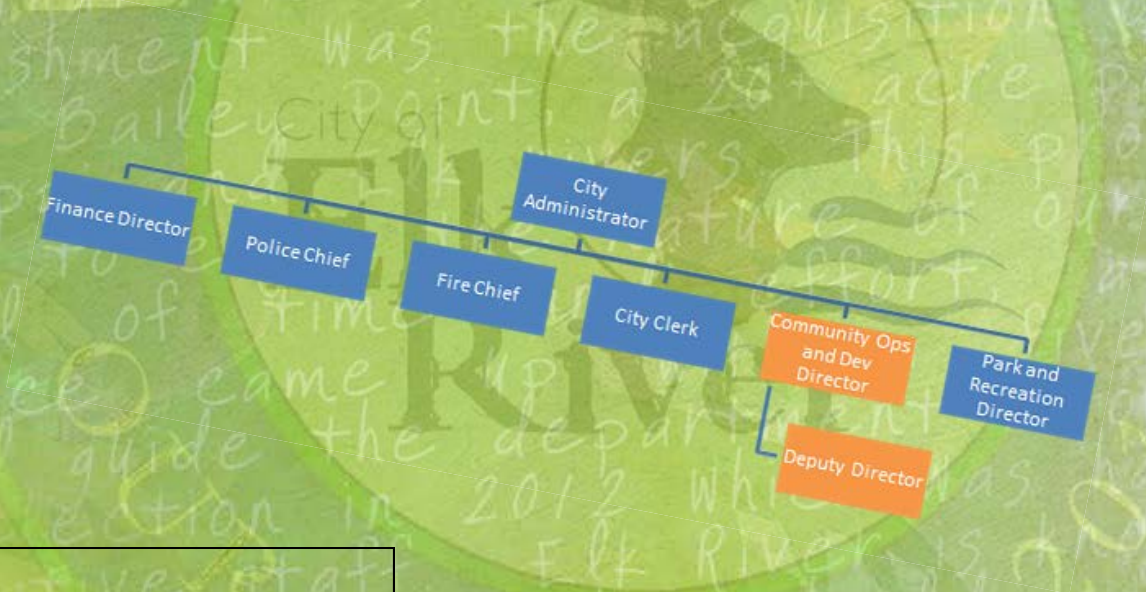
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The Finance Department gained the payroll function as an added internal control and building maintenance services, which will enhance long-term capital planning and maintenance.

Administration absorbed the communications function to enhance citywide communication, improve collaboration, and decrease redundancy.

The Fire Department became a full-service community asset protection department with the addition of building plan review, building safety, and code enforcement to go along with emergency management, fire suppression, and fire/safety education.



Employees

The city said goodbye and thank you to the following employees who retired:

- Phil Hals, Street Superintendent - 30 years
- Dan Kreuser, District Chief Fire Department - 30 years
- Sue Kostanshek, Senior Center Coordinator - 27 years
- Jerry Davis, Arena Maintenance Supervisor - 12 years
- Janice Perszyk, Skate Director - 15 years

COMMUNICATIONS + SOCIAL MEDIA

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Common postings to the site include:

- Articles on department updates
- Community notifications
- Road construction alerts
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- Crime-fighting tool. For example: two individuals were quickly identified from information received on social media, led to the arrests of both suspects



Pinewood

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Pinewood now has its own website (www.pinewoodgolf.com) which was promoted with the use of Constant Contact and Facebook to increase the use of the online Tee Time reservations. Please visit the website to learn more about Pinewood and to schedule your next Tee Time.

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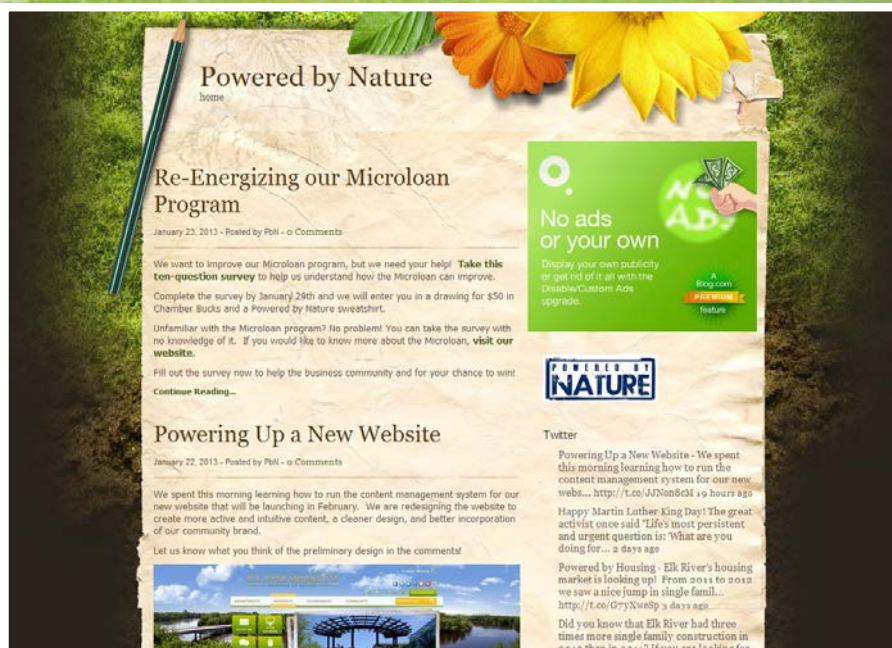
From a management standpoint, RecTrac offers improved reporting and tracking functions that will allow for more effective analysis of recreational services.



COMMUNICATIONS + SOCIAL MEDIA

Empowering the Community Brand

The city received national attention at the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Elk River's *Powered by Nature* brand was used at the conference to teach communities, businesses, and organizations how to work together to create and promote their identity. IEDC Instructor Linda DiMario said, "Elk River is an example of a city, community and Economic Development Authority that has taken control of their ground game to build momentum for their community identity!"



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COMMUNICATIONS + SOCIAL MEDIA

Tablets

Use of tablets citywide has enhanced efficiency. High quality service expectations from customers along with the demand to keep property taxes low can be a challenge for cities when it comes to technology needs. By utilizing tablets, the city saved money on paper, printing, and delivery.

Benefits we have seen from utilizing tablets are:

- Improved customer service
- Streamlined records retention
- Staff time reallocation
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After the tablet implementation, staff found other benefits:

- Ability to access data in the field
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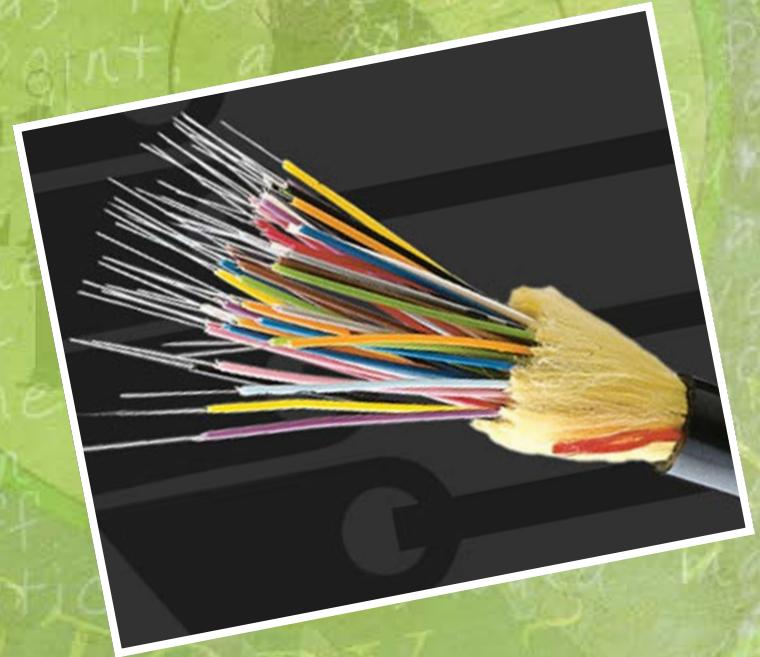
Investing in Faster, More Reliable Technology

The city completed a project to connect 90% of its government buildings with a fiber optic network. By investing in a fiber optic network, the city will save money, improve operations, and create opportunities for further collaboration with other governmental organizations. The 8-mile ring, which includes overhead and underground fiber cables is solely a government-use enterprise for interconnectivity between city, county, municipal utilities, and potentially the school district.

The fiber network is not bothered by distance, weather, or electrical interference. Some of the immediate benefits will be:

- Elimination of approximately \$600 monthly operating expenses
- Ability to utilize local software at off campus locations
- Eliminate poor phone quality problems at off campus locations
- Ability to provide faster internet speeds to remote locations
- Ability for off campus locations to take web training
- Ability for wireless data points for police and fire
- Remote monitoring of sanitary sewer lift stations, wells, water towers, and electrical substations
- Improves potential to collaborate with neighboring cities and counties to reduce redundancies.

This is a partnership with the City of Elk River, Sherburne County, and Elk River Municipal Utilities. City funding came from the Liquor Operations Fund and Wastewater Treatment Enterprise Funds.



"If you think of the network speed in miles per hour, right now the city and its off-site facilities are working at 1 mile per hour and this fiber optic network will bring that speed up to 1,000 miles per hour."

Bob Pearson - IT Manager

NEW APPROACHES + PROGRAMS + FACILITIES



Innovation in Crime Prevention

The Police Department Bike Team presence was increase in a variety of ways throughout the year to both deter and detect crime. They worked numerous community events and were also deployed several nights during the summer in response to residential vandalism and theft from vehicles.

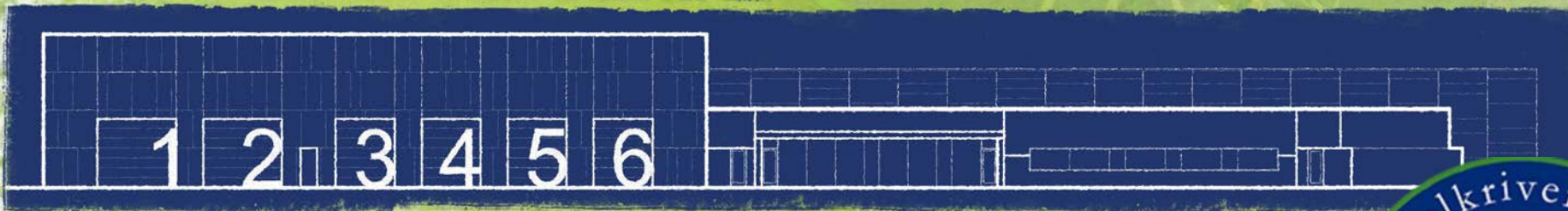
Recycling

The city entered into new recycling contracts, switching from dual stream recycling to a single stream program. The new program allows residents to place all recyclables in one container versus separating paper and cardboard from containers. The city has experienced a 30% increase in recycling participation in just two months. The increase in recycled materials decreases the amount of material landfilled. With the larger containers, the city also has fewer trucks causing wear and tear on local streets.



Maintenance Facility

Construction began on the new Elk River Maintenance Facility. The facility is planned to meet the needs of street and park maintenance divisions for many years. The \$10 million facility is funded through the Capital Building Fund and Liquor Store proceeds and will not be an added cost to taxpayers. The expanded facility increased vehicle/equipment storage. It also has a larger shop area for equipment maintenance, a vehicle wash rack, and more office space. The facility's brine production equipment will allow the pretreating of roadways with a brine solution prior to snow events to improve safety.



BEAUTIFICATION

Intersections

The City Council identified Beautification as one of their four primary goals. To accomplish this goal, the city is improving landscaping at major intersections and boulevards. The first two projects have been completed.

The first intersection improvement project at Main Street & Highway 169 included landscaping the four quadrants with plants intended to add color and texture to the intersection year round. Also part of the intersection improvements was the painting all of the stop lights throughout the city. This was completed to prevent rust, fading and extend the life expectancy of the light standards.



Maintenance

The Street Division responded to the beautification efforts by increasing street sweeping, roadside garbage removal/collection, and weed control.



Prairie Grass

To address aesthetic and safety concerns regarding the prairie grasses currently in the median of Orono Parkway, a phased improvement was initiated to transition the maintenance-free prairie grass to a more aesthetic median with fewer prairie plantings and a series of trees, including oaks, maples, and crabapples, to provide additional color and texture.



BEAUTIFICATION

Entrance Signs

Did you know there are nearly two dozen entrances into the city? The city approved the new style sign for all city entrances to inform people when they have entered the city. The sign features the city logo and the *Powered by Nature* brand tagline. As part of our branding, this styling will be utilized in the downtown area, near the train station, in parks, and elsewhere.





BUSINESS INVESTMENT

Energized by New and Expanding Business

Sportech, Inc., one of Elk River's top employers with over 100 employees is a leader in original equipment manufacturing where they use state-of-the-art technology to design and manufacture custom made performance products for a variety of motorsports vehicles.

Economic Development, in efforts to grow our economic and jobs base, has worked with Sportech to assist in their expansion with two grants totaling \$750,000. This money has since been repaid, and will be used for future economic development initiatives in the community.

Granite Shores

Granite Shores, formally known as The Bluffs, in downtown Elk River was purchased by Soderberg Apartment Specialists. When purchased, only 25 of the 67 units were complete. Since then, Soderberg has finished all of the units with granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances and upgraded cabinets and lighting.

All 67 units in the facility are rented, and downtown business owners have reported an increase in patronage.

Soderberg continues to build out and market the lower level retail and office space to add even more jobs and activity downtown.

P.S...Dance Studio

The Economic Development Authority approved an Energy Efficiency Improvement Micro Loan up to \$30,000 to P.S...Dance Studio to assist in energy efficiency improvements.

The loan program is available to commercial or industrial building owners in Elk River to increase energy efficiency, improve profitability through reduced energy costs, and enhance their ability to retain and create jobs.

Businesses Building Permits

New

Cherry Berry - 18157 Carson St
Sharp & Associates - 9821 Gateway Rd
Dojo Karate Studio - 19022 Freeport Ave
Sport Clips - 18209 Carson Ct
Auto Zone - 18278 Zane St

Expanding

Spectrum School - 17796 Industrial Cr
Fantastic Sams - 18033 Zane St

*Thank You to these businesses for choosing
to invest in Elk River.
We look forward to your continued successes.*



PARTNERSHIPS + DONATIONS

Boat Landing

The Parks and Recreation Department renovated the concrete boat landing at Orono Park in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources, which resulted in no capital costs for the city. This allows users the ability to launch without getting stuck or damaging their property.



Basketball Court

The Trott Brook Homeowners Association donated \$62,000 to build a new basketball court with lights. The city accepted the generous donation, put together specifications, received quotes, and oversaw the project to completion.

The donation covered the entire project construction costs, providing a nice amenity to the neighborhood.

Scoreboard

The Elk River Football Association donated an LED scoreboard for the Youth Athletic Complex. Installation was a coordinated effort with Elk River Municipal Utilities and the Park Maintenance Division.

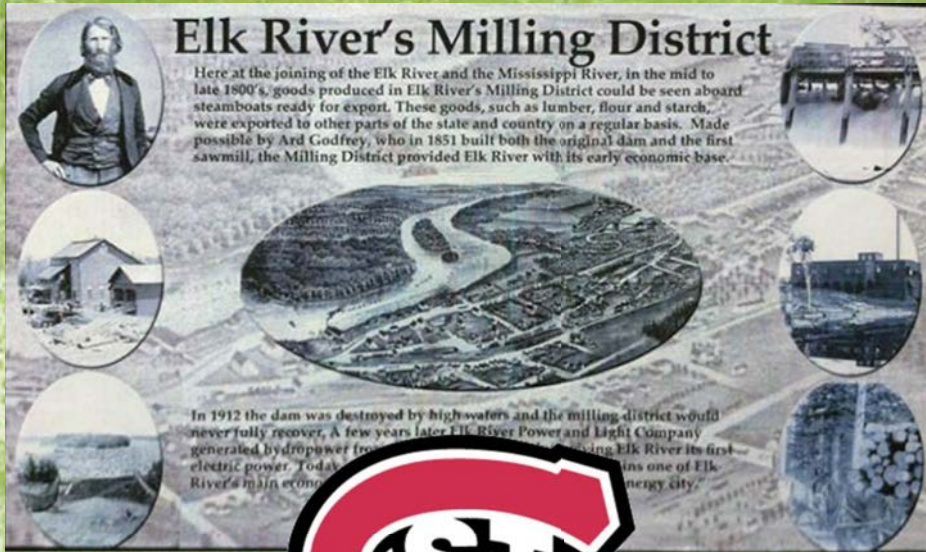


Volunteers

Volunteers planted 550 trees throughout Woodland Trails Park. Most were planted on abandoned trail sections. All of the trees were donated by the volunteers. To protect the new trees from deer and other wildlife, 165 exclosures were built and placed by volunteers. The city purchased 130 of the exclosures with the remainder being donated. The Plaisted Companies donated planting soil which was critical to tree survival in an unseasonably dry year.



PARTNERSHIPS + DONATIONS



Signage

St. Cloud State University students conducted research, designed historic interpretive signs, and explored funding options for several historic areas in the city. Research included writing stories about the history the water tower has witnessed to date. Stories will appear in the *Elk River Star News*. The students drafted language for historic interpretive signs for the newly acquired passive Bailey Point Park, which will become a nature preserve with rugged trails and other improvements. The students are also working on funding options for both the preservation of the water tower and interpretive signs.

Portable Security Camera System

The Police Department obtained a portable security camera system at no cost to the taxpayers with help from a grant from Great River Energy and in cooperation with Elk River Municipal Utilities.

This system is used to help prevent occurrences of vandalism at area businesses, park properties, and private residences where permanent security systems cannot be installed.

The camera netted immediate results, aiding the arrest and conviction of vandals at Hillside Park, Pinewood Golf Course, and on the Great Northern Trail.



PARTNERSHIPS + DONATIONS

Connecting Educators and Manufacturers

Due to the high demand for skilled workers in Elk River, representatives from manufacturing, government, and education partnered to create a program called *Manufacturers Connection*. The collaboration allows business to identify and train the next work-force to perform skilled labor jobs.

The program introduces students to manufacturers and connects local industrial arts programs with the needs of local manufacturing companies. Educators agree tours are a great way to teach students and invited manufacturers and government representatives to discuss how to formulate a

Mississippi Connections

A Downtown Task Force was re-created in 2011 to establish a long-term vision for 432 acres in the core of the city as a result of MnDOT's plans to convert Highway 10 to an urban freeway. The plan focuses on strengthening the core area and establishing it as a destination. The plan was approved by the City Council. The city would like to thank the following members of the task force:

- Chad Wurm
- Dana Anderson
- Fred McCoy
- Jean Lieser
- Jerry Gumphrey
- John Anderson
- Keith Holme
- Lance Lindberg
- Larry Toth
- Louise Kuester
- Mike Niziolek
- Molly Nadeau-Peterson
- Nick Zerwas
- Stewart Wilson
- Mark Urista
- Jim Hudson
- Alan Sakry
- Pat Dwyer

Streets

Elk River is a member of the Sherburne County Municipal Recycling Board with Becker, Big Lake, and Zimmerman. Composting services at all of these sites are available to all Sherburne County residents. The city compost site is now gated and equipped with security cameras to control illegal dumping and unauthorized use. Sherburne County residents can request an electronic access card at no charge. Non-resident and commercial users of the site will be charged a yearly rate.



PARTNERSHIPS + DONATIONS

Main Street and Highway 169

The city worked with MnDOT, Walgreens, Wash N' Fill, and SuperAmerica to landscape the four corners of Hwy 169 and Main Street.



Ice Arena

The Arena worked with customers to assist in developing programs which resulted in the Figure Skating Club increasing usage by nearly 100%.

Fuel

In efforts to manage and reduce fuel costs, the city has partnered for several years with the State of Minnesota Fuel Consortium. The fuel consortium is made up of several local units of government. This program has benefited the city by locking in fuel prices for the next calendar year. Being part of a large consortium has provided overall lower fuel prices. The fixed price takes out market fluctuations and provides stability to the budget.

Fire Service Task Force

A Fire Service Task Force was formed and began work this year with the purpose of evaluating fire protection services and developing a strategic plan for the future.

The task force, consisting of elected officials, city management, firefighters and an outside fire chief, has been working to develop a list of initiatives and goals focused on enhancing services and improving operational effectiveness.



GRANTS



Solar Garbage & Recycling Containers

The city received a grant from Sherburne County to purchase Big Belly Solar Garbage & Recycling Containers to encourage recycling in city parks. The grant enabled the purchase of five Big Belly systems. The containers are located at the Youth Athletic Complex, Lake Orono Park, and Ball Field and two at the Rivers Edge Commons Park.

The garbage and recycling containers increase recycling by compacting waste with solar-powered compactors. The containers are monitored remotely with a tablet application to minimize visits for waste removal. These containers have proven to reduce collection frequency by 80%, freeing up resources, reducing fuel costs and increasing recycling and saving staff time.

Bailey Point

The city received a grant from the DNR, and in partnership with the Minnesota Land Trust used a conservation easement, to purchase Bailey Point. The historic and scenic property includes over 3,300 feet of shoreline along the convergence of the Elk and Mississippi Rivers.

This site was previously home to the first Sherburne County Fair, used as a high school football field, and a golf course.

Bailey Point is believed to be the site of multiple battles between the Dakota & Ojibwa as well as The Ox Cart Trail. As a requirement of the grant, an archaeological dig will take place in the future which will include volunteer participation.



State DEED Grant

The Economic Development Authority received a \$250,000 grant from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

The intent of the grant is to stimulate development by helping provide infrastructure to assist private sector developers, in hopes of creating and/or retaining high quality jobs. The funds were used to develop Nature's Edge Business Center, the city's newest business park.

MAINTENANCE + SAFETY

FOG Detection and Reduction

With the use of a newly purchased remote controlled camera system, the Wastewater Division identified numerous sources of Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOGs) being discharged into the sewer system and reducing the flow. Because of the significant problems FOGs can create, a program was started to educate businesses and residents on the negative impacts of dumping these FOGs down the drain has on the city's system and to assist with the implementation and use of grease traps.



Main Street Parking Plaza Completion

The HRA purchased two buildings that were intended to be demolished to expand downtown parking. Increasing maintenance costs and deteriorating building conditions at 716 and 720 Main Street led the Housing and Redevelopment Authority to remove the buildings.

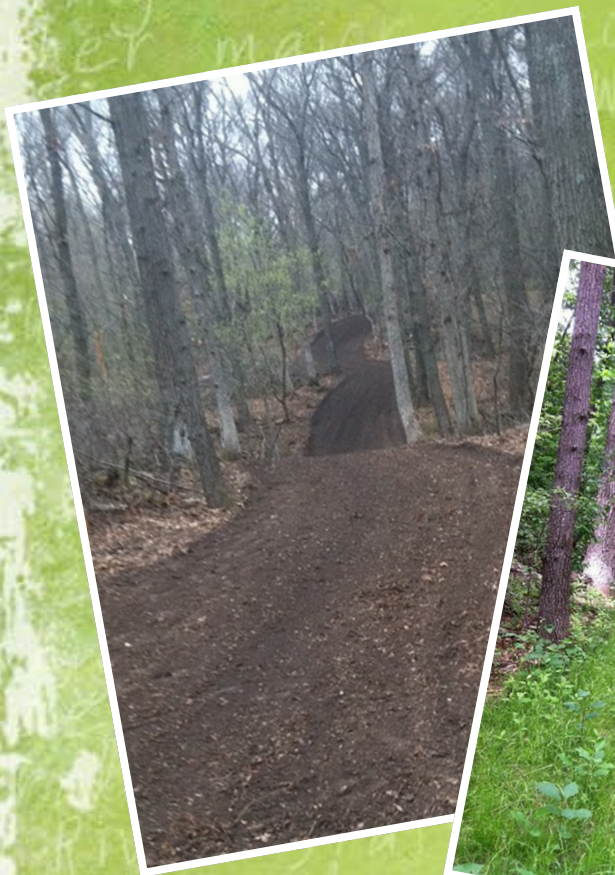
The city created a municipal parking lot which incorporated design elements from the downtown River's Edge Commons Park and provides an additional 23 parking spots for downtown businesses. The site can also host activities such as outdoor events, and has become the new home of the Farmer's Market.



MAINTENANCE + SAFETY

Basketball Courts

Many of the basketball courts were coated or recoated with green paint to extend their life. Some of the courts were painted with foursquare and hopscotch lines. One court was completely removed and replaced, while another was overlaid with asphalt.



New Grass Trails at Woodlands

Another wonderful cooperative project was the building of 5,900 feet of new grass trails in Woodland Trails Park.

The trails were moved away from an adjacent aggregate mine to eliminate private property encroachment and improve safety.

AWARDS

Finance Department

The Finance Department received two national awards from the Government Finance Officers Association of The United States and Canada. The awards are the highest form of government recognition for budgeting and financial reporting. The awards received were:

- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award
- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

SWAT Featured in National Publication

The SWAT team was featured in the Winter 2012 edition of *The Tactical Edge*, a national professional journal for special operations and tactical law enforcement officers. The article included an overview of the team's development, history, training and equipment. A summary of a recent call-out was also featured. The SWAT team has been in existence for 23 years.



Officer and K9 First Place

Police Officer Adam Bebeau and his K9 partner, Zeus, competed in the United States Police Canine Association Region 12 trials. The regional trial drew 65 Police K9 teams from across Minnesota in the three day event. Teams compete in events such as obedience, suspect search, article search, agility, criminal apprehension, and criminal apprehension with gunfire. Bebeau and Zeus received a cumulative score of 689.83 out of a possible 700 for a first-place finish among the 65 participants. They also placed first as members of a combined regional team along with teams from Sherburne County, Mille Lacs County, and the Edina Police Department.

Officer Recognized

Officer Boos received the Police Department Lifesaving Award for saving a woman from the path of an approaching train near the Main Street crossing. His efforts were also recognized by the City Council and Sherburne County Board.



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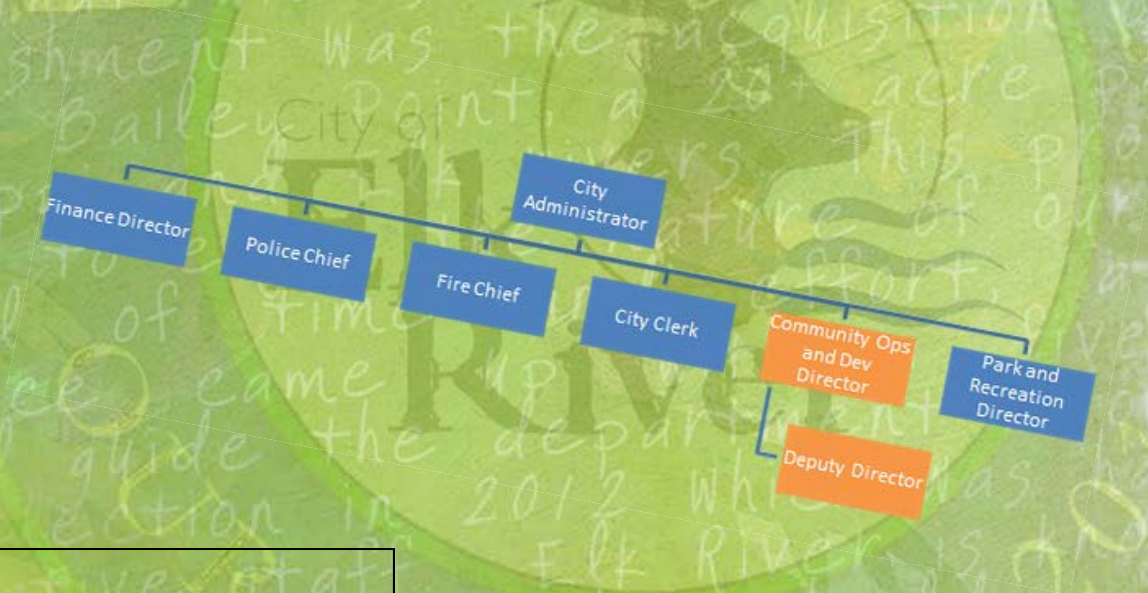
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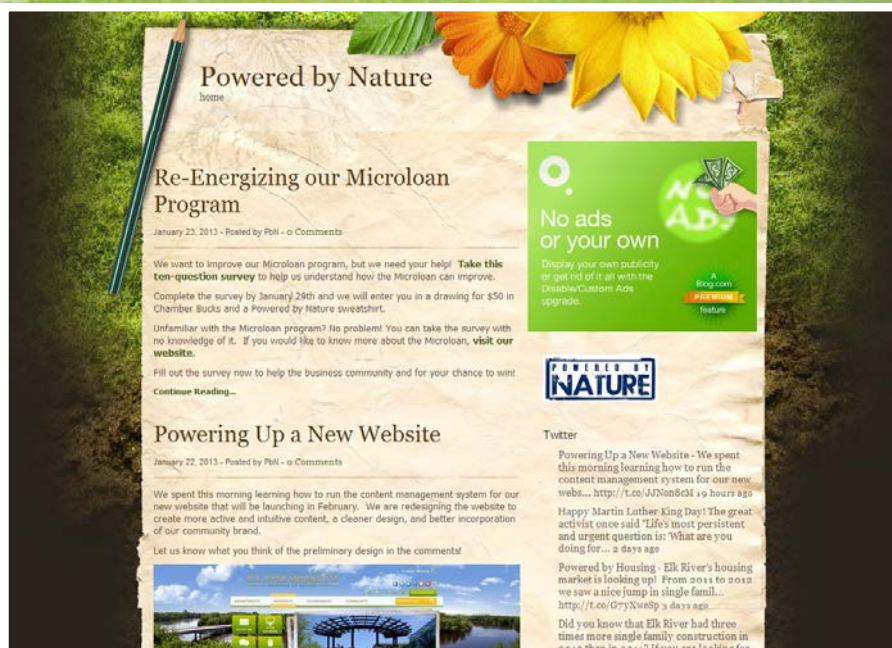
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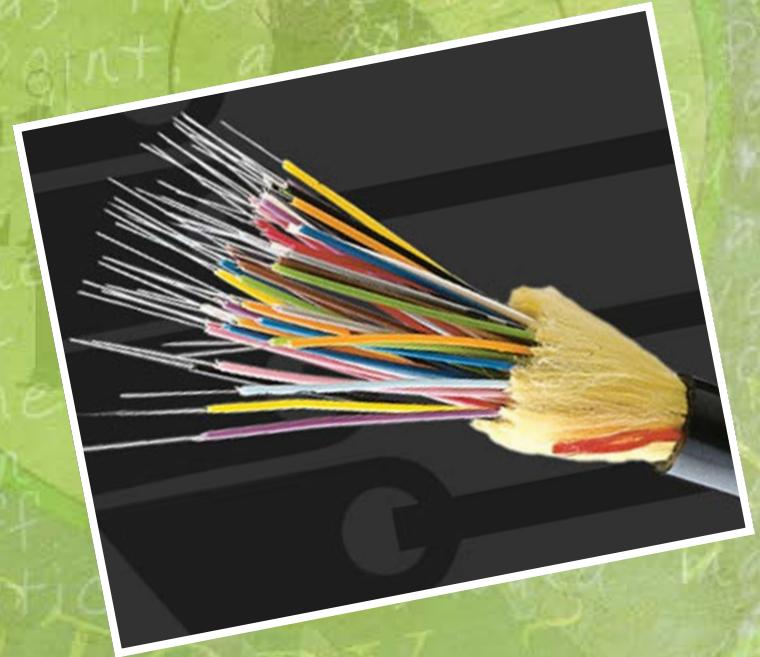
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- Remote monitoring of sanitary sewer lift stations, wells, water towers, and electrical substations
- Improves potential to collaborate with neighboring cities and counties to reduce redundancies.

This is a partnership with the City of Elk River, Sherburne County, and Elk River Municipal Utilities. City funding came from the Liquor Operations Fund and Wastewater Treatment Enterprise Funds.



"If you think of the network speed in miles per hour, right now the city and its off-site facilities are working at 1 mile per hour and this fiber optic network will bring that speed up to 1,000 miles per hour."

Bob Pearson - IT Manager

NEW APPROACHES + PROGRAMS + FACILITIES



Innovation in Crime Prevention

The Police Department Bike Team presence was increase in a variety of ways throughout the year to both deter and detect crime. They worked numerous community events and were also deployed several nights during the summer in response to residential vandalism and theft from vehicles.

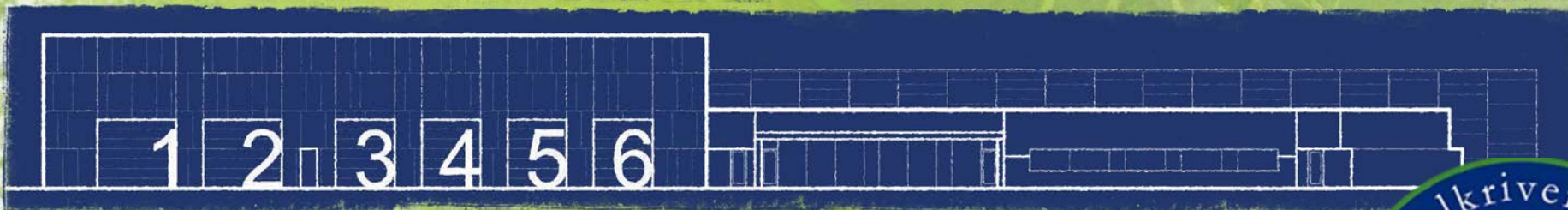
Recycling

The city entered into new recycling contracts, switching from dual stream recycling to a single stream program. The new program allows residents to place all recyclables in one container versus separating paper and cardboard from containers. The city has experienced a 30% increase in recycling participation in just two months. The increase in recycled materials decreases the amount of material landfilled. With the larger containers, the city also has fewer trucks causing wear and tear on local streets.



Maintenance Facility

Construction began on the new Elk River Maintenance Facility. The facility is planned to meet the needs of street and park maintenance divisions for many years. The \$10 million facility is funded through the Capital Building Fund and Liquor Store proceeds and will not be an added cost to taxpayers. The expanded facility increased vehicle/equipment storage. It also has a larger shop area for equipment maintenance, a vehicle wash rack, and more office space. The facility's brine production equipment will allow the pretreating of roadways with a brine solution prior to snow events to improve safety.



BEAUTIFICATION

Intersections

The City Council identified Beautification as one of their four primary goals. To accomplish this goal, the city is improving landscaping at major intersections and boulevards. The first two projects have been completed.

The first intersection improvement project at Main Street & Highway 169 included landscaping the four quadrants with plants intended to add color and texture to the intersection year round. Also part of the intersection improvements was the painting all of the stop lights throughout the city. This was completed to prevent rust, fading and extend the life expectancy of the light standards.



Maintenance

The Street Division responded to the beautification efforts by increasing street sweeping, roadside garbage removal/collection, and weed control.



Prairie Grass

To address aesthetic and safety concerns regarding the prairie grasses currently in the median of Orono Parkway, a phased improvement was initiated to transition the maintenance-free prairie grass to a more aesthetic median with fewer prairie plantings and a series of trees, including oaks, maples, and crabapples, to provide additional color and texture.



BEAUTIFICATION

Entrance Signs

Did you know there are nearly two dozen entrances into the city? The city approved the new style sign for all city entrances to inform people when they have entered the city. The sign features the city logo and the *Powered by Nature* brand tagline. As part of our branding, this styling will be utilized in the downtown area, near the train station, in parks, and elsewhere.





BUSINESS INVESTMENT

Energized by New and Expanding Business

Sportech, Inc., one of Elk River's top employers with over 100 employees is a leader in original equipment manufacturing where they use state-of-the-art technology to design and manufacture custom made performance products for a variety of motorsports vehicles.

Economic Development, in efforts to grow our economic and jobs base, has worked with Sportech to assist in their expansion with two grants totaling \$750,000. This money has since been repaid, and will be used for future economic development initiatives in the community.

Granite Shores

Granite Shores, formally known as The Bluffs, in downtown Elk River was purchased by Soderberg Apartment Specialists. When purchased, only 25 of the 67 units were complete. Since then, Soderberg has finished all of the units with granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances and upgraded cabinets and lighting.

All 67 units in the facility are rented, and downtown business owners have reported an increase in patronage.

Soderberg continues to build out and market the lower level retail and office space to add even more jobs and activity downtown.

P.S...Dance Studio

The Economic Development Authority approved an Energy Efficiency Improvement Micro Loan up to \$30,000 to P.S...Dance Studio to assist in energy efficiency improvements.

The loan program is available to commercial or industrial building owners in Elk River to increase energy efficiency, improve profitability through reduced energy costs, and enhance their ability to retain and create jobs.

Businesses Building Permits

New

Cherry Berry - 18157 Carson St
Sharp & Associates - 9821 Gateway Rd
Dojo Karate Studio - 19022 Freeport Ave
Sport Clips - 18209 Carson Ct
Auto Zone - 18278 Zane St

Expanding

Spectrum School - 17796 Industrial Cr
Fantastic Sams - 18033 Zane St

*Thank You to these businesses for choosing
to invest in Elk River.
We look forward to your continued successes.*



PARTNERSHIPS + DONATIONS

Boat Landing

The Parks and Recreation Department renovated the concrete boat landing at Orono Park in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources, which resulted in no capital costs for the city. This allows users the ability to launch without getting stuck or damaging their property.



Basketball Court

The Trott Brook Homeowners Association donated \$62,000 to build a new basketball court with lights. The city accepted the generous donation, put together specifications, received quotes, and oversaw the project to completion.

The donation covered the entire project construction costs, providing a nice amenity to the neighborhood.

Scoreboard

The Elk River Football Association donated an LED scoreboard for the Youth Athletic Complex. Installation was a coordinated effort with Elk River Municipal Utilities and the Park Maintenance Division.

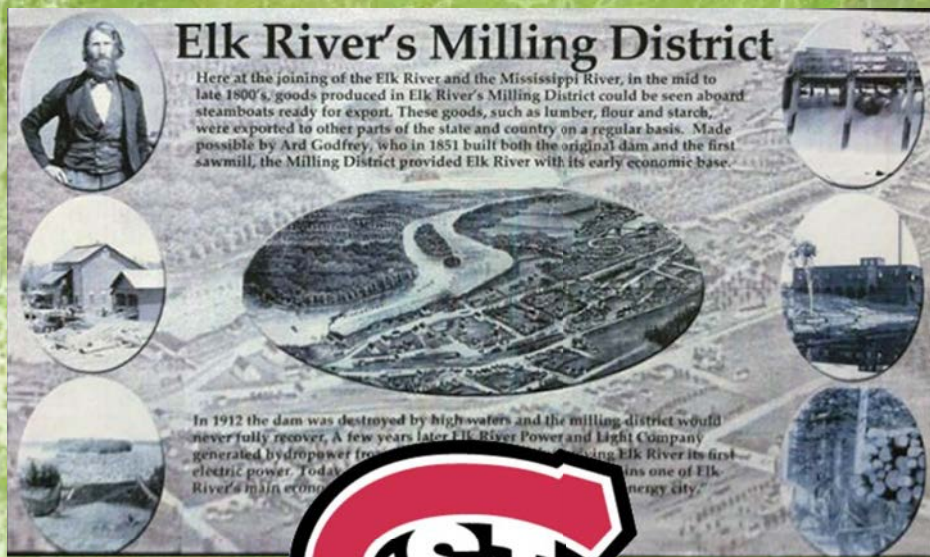


Volunteers

Volunteers planted 550 trees throughout Woodland Trails Park. Most were planted on abandoned trail sections. All of the trees were donated by the volunteers. To protect the new trees from deer and other wildlife, 165 exclosures were built and placed by volunteers. The city purchased 130 of the exclosures with the remainder being donated. The Plaisted Companies donated planting soil which was critical to tree survival in an unseasonably dry year.



PARTNERSHIPS + DONATIONS



Portable Security Camera System

The Police Department obtained a portable security camera system at no cost to the taxpayers with help from a grant from Great River Energy and in cooperation with Elk River Municipal Utilities.

This system is used to help prevent occurrences of vandalism at area businesses, park properties, and private residences where permanent security systems cannot be installed.

The camera netted immediate results, aiding the arrest and conviction of vandals at Hillside Park, Pinewood Golf Course, and on the Great Northern Trail.

Signage

St. Cloud State University students conducted research, designed historic interpretive signs, and explored funding options for several historic areas in the city. Research included writing stories about the history the water tower has witnessed to date. Stories will appear in the *Elk River Star News*. The students drafted language for historic interpretive signs for the newly acquired passive Bailey Point Park, which will become a nature preserve with rugged trails and other improvements. The students are also working on funding options for both the preservation of the water tower and interpretive signs.



PARTNERSHIPS + DONATIONS

Connecting Educators and Manufacturers

Due to the high demand for skilled workers in Elk River, representatives from manufacturing, government, and education partnered to create a program called *Manufacturers Connection*. The collaboration allows business to identify and train the next work-force to perform skilled labor jobs.

The program introduces students to manufacturers and connects local industrial arts programs with the needs of local manufacturing companies. Educators agree tours are a great way to teach students and invited manufacturers and government representatives to discuss how to formulate a

Mississippi Connections

A Downtown Task Force was re-created in 2011 to establish a long-term vision for 432 acres in the core of the city as a result of MnDOT's plans to convert Highway 10 to an urban freeway. The plan focuses on strengthening the core area and establishing it as a destination. The plan was approved by the City Council. The city would like to thank the following members of the task force:

- Chad Wurm
- Dana Anderson
- Fred McCoy
- Jean Lieser
- Jerry Gumphrey
- John Anderson
- Keith Holme
- Lance Lindberg
- Larry Toth
- Louise Kuester
- Mike Niziolek
- Molly Nadeau-Peterson
- Nick Zerwas
- Stewart Wilson
- Mark Urista
- Jim Hudson
- Alan Sakry
- Pat Dwyer

Streets

Elk River is a member of the Sherburne County Municipal Recycling Board with Becker, Big Lake, and Zimmerman. Composting services at all of these sites are available to all Sherburne County residents. The city compost site is now gated and equipped with security cameras to control illegal dumping and unauthorized use. Sherburne County residents can request an electronic access card at no charge. Non-resident and commercial users of the site will be charged a yearly rate.



PARTNERSHIPS + DONATIONS

Main Street and Highway 169

The city worked with MnDOT, Walgreens, Wash N' Fill, and SuperAmerica to landscape the four corners of Hwy 169 and Main Street.



Ice Arena

The Arena worked with customers to assist in developing programs which resulted in the Figure Skating Club increasing usage by nearly 100%.

Fuel

In efforts to manage and reduce fuel costs, the city has partnered for several years with the State of Minnesota Fuel Consortium. The fuel consortium is made up of several local units of government. This program has benefited the city by locking in fuel prices for the next calendar year. Being part of a large consortium has provided overall lower fuel prices. The fixed price takes out market fluctuations and provides stability to the budget.

Fire Service Task Force

A Fire Service Task Force was formed and began work this year with the purpose of evaluating fire protection services and developing a strategic plan for the future.

The task force, consisting of elected officials, city management, firefighters and an outside fire chief, has been working to develop a list of initiatives and goals focused on enhancing services and improving operational effectiveness.



GRANTS



Solar Garbage & Recycling Containers

The city received a grant from Sherburne County to purchase Big Belly Solar Garbage & Recycling Containers to encourage recycling in city parks. The grant enabled the purchase of five Big Belly systems. The containers are located at the Youth Athletic Complex, Lake Orono Park, and Ball Field and two at the Rivers Edge Commons Park.

The garbage and recycling containers increase recycling by compacting waste with solar-powered compactors. The containers are monitored remotely with a tablet application to minimize visits for waste removal. These containers have proven to reduce collection frequency by 80%, freeing up resources, reducing fuel costs and increasing recycling and saving staff time.

Bailey Point

The city received a grant from the DNR, and in partnership with the Minnesota Land Trust used a conservation easement, to purchase Bailey Point. The historic and scenic property includes over 3,300 feet of shoreline along the convergence of the Elk and Mississippi Rivers.

This site was previously home to the first Sherburne County Fair, used as a high school football field, and a golf course.

Bailey Point is believed to be the site of multiple battles between the Dakota & Ojibwa as well as The Ox Cart Trail. As a requirement of the grant, an archaeological dig will take place in the future which will include volunteer participation.



State DEED Grant

The Economic Development Authority received a \$250,000 grant from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

The intent of the grant is to stimulate development by helping provide infrastructure to assist private sector developers, in hopes of creating and/or retaining high quality jobs. The funds were used to develop Nature's Edge Business Center, the city's newest business park.

MAINTENANCE + SAFETY

FOG Detection and Reduction

With the use of a newly purchased remote controlled camera system, the Wastewater Division identified numerous sources of Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOGs) being discharged into the sewer system and reducing the flow. Because of the significant problems FOGs can create, a program was started to educate businesses and residents on the negative impacts of dumping these FOGs down the drain has on the city's system and to assist with the implementation and use of grease traps.



Main Street Parking Plaza Completion

The HRA purchased two buildings that were intended to be demolished to expand downtown parking. Increasing maintenance costs and deteriorating building conditions at 716 and 720 Main Street led the Housing and Redevelopment Authority to remove the buildings.

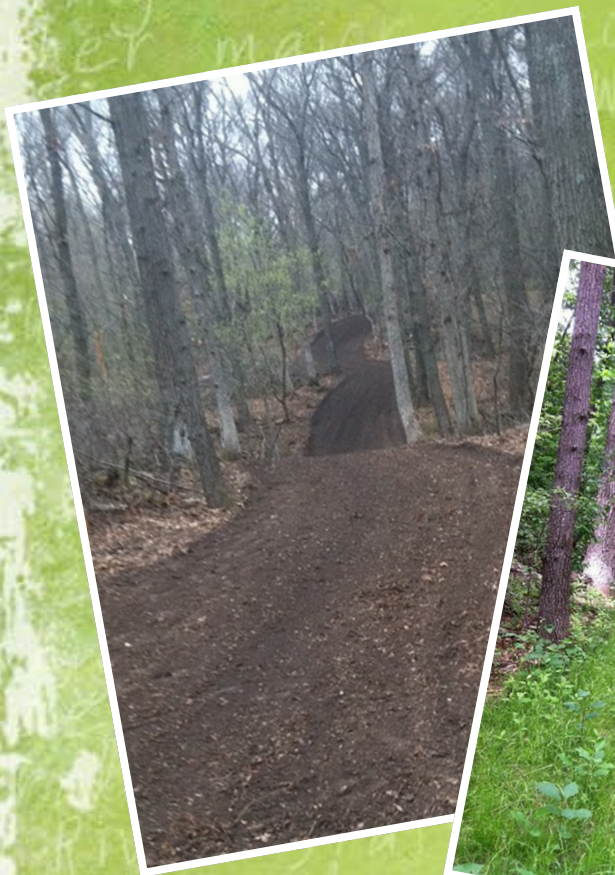
The city created a municipal parking lot which incorporated design elements from the downtown River's Edge Commons Park and provides an additional 23 parking spots for downtown businesses. The site can also host activities such as outdoor events, and has become the new home of the Farmer's Market.



MAINTENANCE + SAFETY

Basketball Courts

Many of the basketball courts were coated or recoated with green paint to extend their life. Some of the courts were painted with foursquare and hopscotch lines. One court was completely removed and replaced, while another was overlaid with asphalt.



New Grass Trails at Woodlands

Another wonderful cooperative project was the building of 5,900 feet of new grass trails in Woodland Trails Park.

The trails were moved away from an adjacent aggregate mine to eliminate private property encroachment and improve safety.

AWARDS

Finance Department

The Finance Department received two national awards from the Government Finance Officers Association of The United States and Canada. The awards are the highest form of government recognition for budgeting and financial reporting. The awards received were:

- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award
- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

SWAT Featured in National Publication

The SWAT team was featured in the Winter 2012 edition of *The Tactical Edge*, a national professional journal for special operations and tactical law enforcement officers. The article included an overview of the team's development, history, training and equipment. A summary of a recent call-out was also featured. The SWAT team has been in existence for 23 years.



Officer and K9 First Place

Police Officer Adam Bebeau and his K9 partner, Zeus, competed in the United States Police Canine Association Region 12 trials. The regional trial drew 65 Police K9 teams from across Minnesota in the three day event. Teams compete in events such as obedience, suspect search, article search, agility, criminal apprehension, and criminal apprehension with gunfire. Bebeau and Zeus received a cumulative score of 689.83 out of a possible 700 for a first-place finish among the 65 participants. They also placed first as members of a combined regional team along with teams from Sherburne County, Mille Lacs County, and the Edina Police Department.

Officer Recognized

Officer Boos received the Police Department Lifesaving Award for saving a woman from the path of an approaching train near the Main Street crossing. His efforts were also recognized by the City Council and Sherburne County Board.